

acted differently."^[80]

Pournelle's laws

Pournelle suggested several "laws". He used the term "Pournelle's law" for the expression "One user, one CPU". He later amended this to "One user, at least one CPU" in a column in *InfoWorld*.^[81] He also used the term "Pournelle's law" for "Silicon is cheaper than iron." That is, a computer is cheaper to upgrade than replace. A second aspect of this law was Pournelle's prediction that hard disk drives would eventually be replaced by solid-state memory,^[82] although he admitted that bubble memory had failed to do so as he had expected.^[55] He has also used "Pournelle's law" to apply to the importance of checking cable connections when diagnosing computer problems: "You'll find by and large, the trouble is a cable."^[83] Another Pournelle's Law is "If you don't know what you're doing, deal with those who do".^[47]

Pournelle's iron law of bureaucracy

Another "law" of his is "Pournelle's iron law of bureaucracy":

In any bureaucracy, the people devoted to the benefit of the bureaucracy itself always get in control and those dedicated to the goals that the bureaucracy is supposed to accomplish have less and less influence, and sometimes are eliminated entirely.^[84]

He eventually restated it as:

Pournelle's Iron Law of Bureaucracy states that in any bureaucratic organization there will be two kinds of people: First, there will be those who are devoted to the goals of the organization. Examples are dedicated classroom teachers in an educational bureaucracy, many of the engineers and launch technicians and scientists at NASA, even some agricultural scientists and advisors in the former Soviet Union collective farming administration. Secondly, there will be those dedicated to the organization itself. Examples are many of the administrators in the education system, many professors of education, many teachers union officials, much of the NASA headquarters staff, etc. The Iron Law states that in every case the second group will gain and keep control of the organization. It will write the rules, and control promotions within the organization.^[85]

This is related to the iron law of oligarchy and to the Self-licking ice cream cone. His blog, "The View from Chaos Manor", often references apparent examples of the law.^[86] Some of Pournelle's standard themes that recur in the stories are: welfare states become self-perpetuating, building a technological society requires a strong defense and the rule of law, and "those who forget history are condemned to repeat it".

Awards

Pournelle never won a Hugo Award. He said, "Money will get you through times of no Hugos better than Hugos will get you through times of no money."^[87] The Mote in God's Eye and Inferno were both nominated for a Nebula Award for Best Novel in 1975.^[88]

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External links

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 - Jerry Pournelle (<https://www.isfdb.org/cgi-bin/ea.cgi?1067>) at the Internet Speculative Fiction Database
 - Jerry Pournelle (<https://www.imdb.com/name/nm2689779/>) at IMDb
 - Jerry Pournelle (archived) (<https://web.archive.org/web/20070502064250/http://www.99.nasfic.org/gohs/jerryp.htm>) at 1999 NASFiC website where he was GoH
 - How Jerry Pournelle got kicked off the ARPANET (<http://www.stormtiger.org/bob/humor/pournell/story.html>)
 - Jerry Pournelle Interview at AMCtv.com (archived) (<https://web.archive.org/web/20090413040253/http://blogs.amctv.com/scifi-scanner/2009/03/jerry-pournelle-interview.php>)
 - Jerry Pournelle (<https://twit.tv/shows/triangulation/episodes/90/>) interviewed on the TV show *Triangulation* on the TWiT.tv network (Part 1 of 2)
 - Jerry Pournelle (<https://twit.tv/shows/triangulation/episodes/95/>) interviewed on the TV show *Triangulation* on the TWiT.tv network (Part 2 of 2)
 - Jerry Pournelle (<https://lccn.loc.gov/n50020136>) at Library of Congress, with 58 library catalog records
 - Jerry Pournelle (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/183743696/jerry-pournelle>) at Find a Grave
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